



CITY OF FRESNO

MEDIA RELEASE

ASHLEY SWEARENGIN, MAYOR

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6th Annual Water-Wise Plant Event Hosted at Fresno State

FRESNO, CA (April 28, 2014) - A local spring-time favorite, the Water-Wise Give and Take Plant Event, will be held at the Fresno State Horticulture Greenhouse Park (3150 E. Barstow Ave.) on May 3, 2014 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. -- with a new kick-off event, hosted by Friends of the Madden Library, on Friday, May 2 at 6 p.m.

Both events are free for the public and designed to educate guests on how to save water with Fresno-friendly landscaping practices. The event on Friday will include a panel discussion with Q & A on *Smart Gardens: How to be Water-Wise in Times of Drought*. And Saturday's Water-Wise Plant Give and Take Event will draw hundreds of guests, dozens of master gardeners, offer hands-on activities for kids, and provide free educational workshops.

Saturday guests are invited to experience and learn from all of the participating partners, while picking-up a limited amount of free, drought-resistant plants for their gardens. Gardeners will receive something special for donating water-wise plants, cuttings, bulbs, seeds and trees to share with other guests.

Throughout the event, experts in native and water-wise plants will be on-hand to offer advice for nurturing yards and gardens that are beautiful and can thrive in San Joaquin Valley weather with a minimal amount of water.

Event activities include:

Workshops led by Master Gardeners on: "Creating a cactus / succulent dish garden", "Composting", "Topiaries", "Micro-irrigation and Drip Systems", "Growing Vegetables in a Drought" and an additional workshop led by the USDA on "Micro-irrigation and Drip Systems".

Vermiculture display with Wiggly worms

Fresno State's water-wise Garden in bloom

Access to irrigation and controller experts who can help answer residents' questions concerning landscapes or vegetable gardens

Kid's Mother's Day craft project

Fresno State's Floral Laboratory displays and Fresno State Plant sale

Raffle drawing

"We are so excited to be continuing one of the community's favorite spring-time events," said City of Fresno Water Conservation Supervisor Nora Laikam. "Every year the event brings more partners and even more guests who are interested in learning about Fresno-friendly landscaping options that not only conserve water, but can save them money."

Landscape irrigation represents up to 70% of water used in a typical household - much of this water is wasted by inefficient irrigation and water-guzzling landscape. By planting water-wise San Joaquin Valley-Friendly trees and plants that use 2/3 less water than other plants, households can save water and money without sacrificing a beautiful landscape. In addition to water-wise planting practices, households can also save 15-25 gallons of water per day by adjusting sprinklers so they don't water driveways, streets and sidewalks.

To further educate the community on watering practices, the City of Fresno will have a water meter displayed at the event and will talk with residents about their own meters, or sign them up for free landscape consultations and water leak surveys. The Central Valley Friendly Landscape Award Program winners will also be at the Water-Wise Plant Event, showcasing their award-winning gardens. And in honor of Cinco de Mayo, Fresno State grown Pepper Plants will be available in exchange for a donation to benefit the Ag Student Scholarship fund.

A collection of partners make this event possible including: City of Fresno Water Conservation; Central Valley Water Awareness Committee; Horticulture Unit at Fresno State; Irrigation Association; UC Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener Program; Fresno Office of Education, Scout Island; California Native Plant Society; Clovis Botanical Garden; Tree Fresno; Fresno Iris Society; Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State; Friends of the Madden Library at Fresno State; Center for Advanced Research and Technology; Alluvial Community Garden; Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society; Takao Nursery; USDA Agricultural Research Service/NALPGRU.

For a list of water-wise plants, water conservation gardening tips and many other ways to save water inside and outside the home, visit www.fresno.gov/water; email: waterconservation@fresno.gov or call the City of Fresno Water Conservation Program at (559) 621-5480.

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